

Message Text

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43

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SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENT ON WORLD
ISSUES AS YEAR BEGINS

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HELD A NEW YEARS
INTERVIEW AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR TO DISCUSS BROADLY
NORWAY'S FOREIGN POLICY. IN HIS NEW YEARS SPEECH
PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI DISCUSSED DOMESTIC AND INTER-
NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
TALKS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. LOOKING TO NORWAY'S FOREIGN POLICY TASKS IN COMING
YEAR FRYDENLUND SAID IT WOULD BE NATURAL TO ASSIGN
PRIORITY TO ISSUES CLOSE TO HOME. THEY INCLUDE
EFFECTS OF OIL PRODUCTION ON NORWAY'S FOREIGN
POLICY, THE QUESTION OF LOS ECONOMIC ZONE AND PROBLEMS
IN THE NORTH GENERALLY. THE NORTH, HE SAID, IS NOW
ONE OF CENTRAL AREAS OF NORWAY'S FOREIGN POLICY.
REFERRING TO BARENTS SEA BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS WITH
SOVIETS AND POSSIBLE OIL PRODUCTION ON NORTHERN SHELF,
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HE STATE NORWAY'S POLICY IS FOR FULL NORWEGIAN

DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES THERE. PRACTICAL AND DETAILED FORMULATION OF POLICY FOR THIS WOULD COME IN FUTURE. POINTING OUT THAT IMPORTANT PARTIES TO SVALBARD TREATY HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON NORWAY'S LEGAL POSITION ON ARCHIPELAGO'S CONTINENTAL SHELF, HE STATED NORWAY SAW ITS TASK TO EXPLAIN ITS LEGAL VIEW, WHILE AT SAME TIME TO STRESS THAT NORWEGIAN POSITION ALSO PROVIDES BEST GUARANTEE FOR CONTINUED PEACE IN THESE AREAS. HE SAID NORWAY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH US AND UK OVER SVALBARD.

2. ON ANGOLA HE SAID HIS NEW YEAR'S WISH WAS THAT GREAT POWERS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE AFRICAN COUNTRY AND LET AFRICANS SOLVE PROBLEM THEMSELVES.

3. ON DETENTE HE NOTED THAT WHILE THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES THE ALTERNATIVE OF A NEW COLD WAR WAS UNACCEPTABLE. THE NEED FOR DETENTE SUCCESS ARE SO STRONG IN BOTH EAST AND WEST THAT HE FELT HURDLES TO POLICY WOULD BE OVERCOME. HE VOICED CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ARMS BUILDUP AND SAID BALANCED REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES WAS NECESSARY.

4. ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS HE SAID BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON FISHERIES LIMITS AND DELIMITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOWED THAT SAKHAROV CASE HAS NOT AFFECTED NORWEGIAN-SOVIET OFFICIAL RELATIONS. WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WERE GOOD AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE OPEN, AND NORWAY HOPED THIS WOULD CONTINUE. STATING THAT SINCE NORWAY IS AN ALLY OF THE US AND NEIGHBOR OF THE USSR, COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH SUPERPOWERS WERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HE SAID, NORWAY ACCEPTS EVERYTHING BIG POWERS DO IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, FOR NORWAY AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEANS HAVE A VIEW OF WAY IN WHICH WORLD SHOULD BE ORGANIZED WHICH DIFFERS FROM THAT OF TWO SUPERPOWERS. THERE MAY BE MORE NEED FOR A WEST EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVE TO THE COMMUNIST AND INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISTIC SYSTEMS, HE SAID.

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5. ON HE UN HE NOTED THAT NORWEGIAN OPINION WAS BECOMING CRITICAL OF THE WORLD BODY. HE SAID MORE REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF UN AND ITS POSSIBILITIES WAS NEEDED. FROM HIS VIEW UN WAS STILL BEST BASIS FOR ACHIEVING A BETTER WORLD; WORLD'S NEW PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE SOLVED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THIS REQUIRED INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY. HE SAID FOR THIS REASON UN WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FUNDAMENTAL

PILLAR OF NORWAY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

6. TOWARD DEVELOPING NATIONS HE SAID FIRST ROUND OF NORWAY'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE HAS CONSISTED OF FINANCIAL TRANSFERS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MORE IMPORTANT SECOND ROUND WILL BE TO ASSIST LDC'S TO PRODUCE AND EXPORT COMMODITIES. THIS TASK WILL CREATE PROBLEMS OF ADAPTATION, WILL BE LONG TERM AND WILL PLACE ADDITIONAL BURDENS ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

7. IN HIS SPEECH, BRATTELI CITED SPAIN AND PORTUGAL AND SAID NORWAY WOULD WELCOME ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD HELP BRING THESE COUNTRIES INTO THE DEMOCRATIC EUROPE WHERE THEY BELONG.

8. DISCUSSING NORWAY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION, BRATTELI SPOKE OPTIMISTICALLY OF COUNTRY'S LONG TERM OUTLOOK. HE NOTED NORWAY HAD COPEd BETTER THAN MOST COUNTRIES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RECESSION. BUT HE ADDED THAT UNTIL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IMPROVES, COUNTRY WILL HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES. IN COMING YEAR A MAIN TASK WILL BE TO SAFEGUARD EMPLOYMENT AND PROVIDE REASONABLE REAL INCOME INCREASE. ADDITIONALLY, FUTURE OF FISHING INDUSTRY MUST BE PROTECTED AND AGRICULTURE'S POSITION CLARIFIED AND SAFEGUARDED. HE CITED INFLATION AS MAJOR PROBLEM NOTING THAT NATIONAL MEASURES USED IN PAST TO DEAL WITH IT WERE INADEQUATE AND THAT BROAD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ACTION WAS REQUIRED.

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